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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: H. MORIMOTO  
Serial No.: 10/816,913  
Filed: April 5, 2004  
For: STORAGE UNIT, STORAGE UNIT CONTROL METHOD, AND  
STORAGE SYSTEM  
Group: 2185  
Examiner: J. Yu

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

**MS AF**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

November 1, 2006

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated August 1, 2006, setting a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on November 1, 2006, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested in light of the following amendments and remarks.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2.

**Remarks** are included following the amendments.